THE OBSERVER.

BY BEATRICE IRONSIDE.

The friend of Socrates, the friend of Plato,
But above all, the friend of truth.

BALTIMORE: Printed (for the Editor) by JOSEPH ROBINSON, and publiſhed every Saturday morning, at No. 4, North Charles-ſtreet; where Subſcriptions, Communications, Advertiſements, &c. are received.....Terms of ſubſcription, Five Dollars a year, payable in advance.

Vol. II. *Saturday, July* 25, 1807. *No.* 4.

For the Observer.

REMARKS ON QUARANTINES.

SUGGESTED BY DR. CALDWELL'S ORATION.

Continued from p. 39.)

If the arguments adduced in the last number, should appear conclusive, it will then be admitted that every animal, without exception, is obnoxious to concealed enemies...and that the assailed, is so constructed, as to be unconscious of the attack or designs of the assailant. If this is inseparable from the œconomy of nature, it then necessarily follows that man must be subject to the depredations of œstri, ichneumons, apes maxillosæ and pucerons, and perhaps, thousands of others, which the senses, aided by the directions of a correct understanding, may be able to trace in a way that will fall very little short of absolute demonstration.

Insects of almost every description, have been found alive in different parts of the human system...but how they have obtained admission into it, has been hitherto unexplained. We can alone form any conception of effects, the causes of which are unknown, by comparing them with like effects, the causes of which are known. We have ascertained that the œstrus equi deposites her eggs on the hair of the horse...that these develope there, and are conveyed in the worm state, into the stomach, and become bots, by which the horses are numerously destroyed. Bots have been found in the human stomach. Is it not reasonable to believe that they are introduced into it in a manner that must be analagous to that by which they find admission into the interiour of the horse? The apes maxillosæ deposite their eggs under the bark, and the larva work a passage into the interiour part of the hardest wood. The larva of insects have been found in the cavities of human bones. Is it difficult to conceive that eggs might be deposited under the surface of our bodies, and that the larva might similarly effect a passage into our bones? The œstrus bovis insinuates its eggs under the skin of these cattle, the worm proceeding from which, forms a tumour, produces pus or matter, in which it lives until ripe to change its state. How many tumours of a similar description

are found on the human body, and how justly may they be attributed to a cause not very dissimilar? We know, that various kinds of ichneumons penetrate the bodies of caterpillars, and there secure a protection for their offspring, at the expense of life to the protector. By what means can we be alledged to possess an immunity from a process, which in so many respects, as to the manner in which disease and death ensue, resembles the fate of the caterpillar? Do not the variety of blemishes on leaves and trees, occasioned by pucerons and other insects, bear a striking similitude to appearances on the human surface, wholly inexplicable on any other principle, but this admitted, obviates every difficulty? How many changes of structure, and monstrous appearances are exhibited in the internal parts of our body which are incomprehensible, if referred to any powers of the system? The guessing, the various attempts to explain these aberrations of nature, have never reached even a semblance of probability. Imagine them to be the work of insects, and our perplexity ceases. There are two ways by which a knowledge of pathology may be brought to great perfection...the one is, accurately to observe the manner in which the living insects that are found in the human animal are communicated to other animals, the mode in which it is effected being cognizable by our senses. This has been exemplified in the œstrus equi, the parent of the horse bots. In this way we may comprehend the manner in which they are conveyed into our stomach. The other is particularly to note the preternatural appearances, where the insects are not visible, and to search for effects of a similar nature, where they are visible in any other of the works of creation. Polypous obstructions, consisting of stony matter, and parts thickened and unusually softened, or diminished in size and hardened, are numerous in the human cavities. To what an extent do not the polypi form beds of coral, and impede, often change the direction of the course of rivers? It is by investigations of this kind that we shall be led to a disclosure of many of the secret operations of nature by which we are affected, and obtain, perhaps, nearly as correct a knowledge of the phenomina observable in the human, as in those which are discoverable in any other animal. If we can once be satisfied that the cause of death, obvious in any one creature, must resemble the cause producing death in every other, we shall be enabled to form conclusions respecting our own fate, that will generally give satisfaction. If this reasoning is just, it of necessity follows, that as the plague of the caterpillars, pucerons, and of all the insect tribes, is the ichneumon, which deposites its eggs in their bodies or in places near to where they abide, which when hatched, prey upon them, either wholly at once, or by parts...so the plague, yellow and every other fever, and every other disease we experience, must be occasioned by eggs insinuated, without our knowledge, into our bodies, externally or internally, or from

eggs placed near our habitations which, when hatched, in either case prey upon us by parts, one description giving a preference to one part, and another to another.

Had this method, in the œconomy of nature, occurred to my ingenious friend Dr. Brugmans, professor of natural history and of botany in the college of Leyden, previous to his bestowing so much attention to the origin of pus, he would have been able to have spoken more clearly on that intricate subject. His penetrating genius saw clearly that putrefaction could have no share in producing it, and that it was always a peculiar operation of nature effected for a purpose he could not distinctly comprehend; but which in the view here given to it, he would have unquestionably understood.

Presuming it, by the arguments offered for consideration, to be generally received that the cause of disease is a living principle...that as the eggs of the ichneumon are deposited in the body of the caterpillar, or on leaves in the vicinity of puceron nests, and of other congregations of insects, on which the larva of the ichneumon, hemerobious, and perhaps, of many other tribes, begin to prey as soon as they come into existence, so the bodies of all other animals, not excepting the human, are equally a receptacle for them, and equally offer to them a sacrifice of life.

If the opinions I have been endeavouring to establish, are supported by such credible evidence, as to give them well founded pretensions to acceptance, what shall we say of the advantages attributable to quarantines? If diseases, without any exception, either as to object or nature, are occasioned by a living principle which attacks and preys upon its fellow mortal, how can a quarantine obviate the difficulty? If the origin of all diseases is a living principle, possessed of the power of removing from one place to another, and as our senses, it is alledged, are incapable of discerning it, how is it possible that we can devise any barrier against the invasion of that which is invisible?

Doctor Mead has this observation, in his treatise on the plague p. 189, of his works;

"It has been thought so difficult to explain the manner how "goods retain the seeds of contagion...that some authors, as "Kircher, Langius, &c. have imagined infection to be perfor- "med by the means of insects; the eggs of which may be con- "veyed from place to place, and make the disease when they "come to be hatched. But as this is a supposition, *grounded up- "on no manner of observation*, so I think there is no need to have "recourse to it. If, as we have conjectured, the matter of conta- "gion be an active substance, generated chiefly from animal "corruption, it is not hard to conceive how this may be lodged "and preserved in soft porous bodies, which are kept close "pressed together."

If the existence of eggs are *grounded upon no manner of observa-*

tion, I should be glad to know upon what observations the existence of *an active substance, generated from animal corruption, and preserved in soft porous bodies, which are kept close pressed together,* is founded. Has this active substance been ever more distinctly seen than the eggs? Are any of the other phenomina of nature analagous to it? As there are no proofs which support this mere assertion, I am disposed to believe that there is not one dispassionate observer, who will not find it very *hard to conceive* that an active substance, such as it is described to be, can exist. Whereas, the agency of eggs is in unison with the whole œconomy of nature...it will bear the scrutiny of the most accurate investigation...it has been distinctly seen in thousands of instances, and, therefore, must command the assent of all whose senses are regulated by a correct understanding. The first is uniformly supported by, the last is entirely destitute of, the semblance of moral evidence.

It was reserved for the pious christian...for the WISE MAN OF EUROPE, as he is distinguishingly termed by Linnæus, to derive the origin of the most calamitous afflictions of the human species from objects completely trivial. Cats, dogs, poultry, old ropes, and such childish conceits, have been gravely adduced by reverend heads of the church, and profound philosophers, as the means of propagating contagion. It is to be lamented, that good and evil, wisdom and folly, are so often united in the same person. Posterity will be astonished at the proofs which the most celebrated men have given of this in their allegations respecting contagion.

That men, who impose it upon themselves and others, as an indispensable duty, to offer up their prayers to the deity, to appease his wrath for innumerable transgressions, and to solicit his deliverance from evil, which certainly argues a belief that he takes some share in their government, should imagine he could subject their lives to *such accidents* is certainly astonishing. The ancients attributed these scourges to the resentment of their Gods, on account of disobedience...but the wiser christians, whilst in their prayers they acknowledge him as the supreme governour of the universe, exhonorate him, in their private thoughts of all regulation in their concerns. They resort rather to chance, or the concurrence of the most trifling causes for the most dreadful calamities to which their species is liable.

The establishment of quarantines is a measure so serious in its consequences, that it is well worthy of the most attentive consideration. Two facts are adduced, in the commencement of these reflections, which well merit review, as leading to consequences from which may be formed important conclusions. It was stated in Vol. 1, No. 18, from Russell, that a Turkish vessel laden at Alexandria, and bound for Constantinople, was wrecked off Cape Baffo, on the west end of the island of Cyprus, and distant from the town of Limsol about sixteen leagues. A great part

of the crew that were saved, were infected with the plague.... By these it was *supposed* to have been communicated to the intervening villages, and thence, to the town, in the month of April, where the contagion spread with such rapidity, that in one month, (June) upwards of four hundred persons died of it.

Let it be well remembered, that many of the infected persons fled from Limsol to Larnica, forty miles distant, but without communicating the distemper. During the hot months of July, August and September, little was heard of the plague ; but the truth was, it had continued lurking in those parts, showing itself only by starts, particularly at Baffo, Piscopi, and other villages on the western and southern sides of the island.

The plague proceeded onwards gradually, in a northern direction, from Limsol to Nicosia, where it proved very formidable in the month of October. In February following, 11 months after its appearance in Limsol, it began to rage at Larnica, where it laid almost every one prostrate.

What proofs are these in favour of contagion, adduced by the great champion for that mean of communication ? The infected did not spread the disease that emigrated from Limsol to Larnica. How strange is it that those who escaped from the wreck off Baffo, should have had an influence so eminently superiour? Was the distemper more virulent in those who arrived in the neighbourhood of Limsol, and more capable of spreading the desolation, than those that removed to Larnica ? This cannot be maintained, because a number of the emigrants died in the houses of the Larnicans, with all the most dreadful insignia of the plague, as bubos, &c. and yet all escaped unhurt. The words of Russell are, " The condition of Larnica, at this period, was remarkable. It had received part of the infected crew from Limsol," that crew that had been the cause there of such ravages, " it had maintained a constant intercourse with the infected quarters of the island ; peasants and mule-drivers from those parts, with the pestilential sores on their bodies, were daily in the streets and markets, and some of them died in the houses of Larnica. On the 22d May, a vessel arrived from Damietta, which put on shore some infected passengers and sailors, who lodged in the houses, and communicated freely with the natives. Another Turkish vessel from the same place arrived, some time after, with infected persons on board. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS NEW IMPORTATION, NONE OF THE INHABITANTS OF LARNICA WERE KNOWN TO HAVE CONTRACTED THE PLAGUE !"

How a man, with such conclusive proofs staring him in the face, could have been the advocate of quarantines, or of contagion as the medium of general invasion, even by the plague, is a most extraordinary proof of a preoccupied mind, Would it not have been much more rational in him, to have concluded that the distemper was brought to Limsol, in the same manner as it was brought to Nicosia, and afterwards to Larnica and else-

where...and that those who escaped from the wreck were as harmless, in point of fact, at Limsol, as the same persons, and a number of others in like condition, were afterwards at Larnica? The event related by doctor Simms, respecting the small pox, which was epidemic in one part of Ireland, and of persons proceeding from thence to another part, labouring under the disease and dying there, and yet proving harmless to the inhabitants; and of these same inhabitants being afterwards generally invaded by the epidemic, is a clear proof, that even an infectious disease cannot be propagated from person to person, so as at once to lay prostrate a whole country.

The cause of disease must have a very different mode of working its effects. If, as alledged, it is an host of flies which deposite their eggs either on our bodies, or near our bodies, so that their larva can conveniently attack us, then all difficulty vanishes. Then they may either proceed from one body to another, or attack great numbers of bodies at the same time, and as other larva herd together, we may readily see how it comes to pass that disease rages more in one part than in another, and at different parts in succession. This is so conformable to the œconomy of most insects, that proofs from analogy, applicable in every instance, present themselves in crowds to the honest enquirer, who has alone truth in view.

It has been stated, and will be unhesitatingly admitted that the human race partakes of a double nature...one animal, the other spiritual, and that in capacity of the first, we are placed at the head of the animal creation...in quality of the last, probably low in the scale of spiritual beings.

If those that are above us, are as well acquainted with what regards our animal œconomy, as we are of the order by which the creatures below us are governed, may we not believe that they must view us in nearly the same light, in the measures we adopt for obviating the dangers of the pestilence, that we should the horses, were they capable of it, in forming cordons and establishing quarantines against the causes of evil, which we know they derive from the botts?

They certainly can as clearly discern the source of their sufferings as we can the origin of our greatest scourges, at least, so far as relates to our senses.

J. C.

(To be Continued.)

FOR THE OBSERVER.

THE CAMELEON.....No. XI.

BY THOMAS FICKLE, ESQ.

To Thomas Fickle, Esq.

"The noblest employment of man is to assist man."—*Sophocles.*

The acquisition of knowledge is certainly the most honourable and pleasurable employment of man. In the pursuit of lite-

rature and science, a virtuous and philanthropic mind feels a delightful anticipation of the pleasure which learning affords as a mean of benefitting mankind...a richly cultivated mind, is ever a liberal and generous one...it delights in the general diffusion of knowledge, and has the greatest satisfaction in ennobling and expanding the minds of others. Seneca, that able moralist, used to say, that he would spurn the proffered gift of wisdom, if on the condition not to impart it to others....And Cicero, that luminary of wisdom and learning, considered the pleasure of instructing others as one of the principal inducements to the acquisition of knowledge. It appears to have been evidently the intention of nature, that man should assist man, since, by giving him the faculty of speech, it designed him for a sociable animal....The various degrees and species of genius or talent... the natural turn which one man has for one branch of science, and another for a different kind, is a strong proof that nature designed us to cultivate our peculiar talent, and to benefit society by the result of our labour. "Nature," says Mrs. Barbaud, "has been much too frugal to heap together all manner of shining qualities in one brilliant mass"....The poet, therefore, should cultivate his talent for that divine art...the sculptor devote himself chiefly to his profession...and the painter, who is also a "*heaven-taught soul,*" should improve his taste and genius, and all of them should willingly bring the fruits of their study and labour into the general stock.

The ancients appear to have been particularly liberal in the communication of their knowledge to the world.

> Paulum sepultæ distat inertiæ
> Celata virtus,

says Horace...and his illustrious cotemporary, the Mantuan Poet, places in the Elysian paradise, those, who, by the invention of useful arts, had instructed and adorned life.

> "Inventas.....qui vitam excoluere per artes,
> "Quisque sui memores, alios fecere merendo."

The same liberal disposition is evident in the writings of the virtuous and learned Addison...in those of Johnson, Budgel, Steel, Hawksworth, Thornton, Moore, and the whole list of periodical writers, whose object was the amelioration of society... The diffusion of knowledge, and the suppression of vice and folly in whatever garb...the real worth of these works needs no eulogium; their influence on the manners of the times is their strongest recommendation.

Ridicule is a powerful weapon in the hands of a virtuous and ingenious writer...it has been crowned with success, when the strongest arguments...the finest flowers of rhetoric, and the zealous effusions of honest indignation, have failed. Ridicule, has therefore, been a constant instrument of attack upon the follies and vices of the day....But it must be delicately used, if it would

have its effect, and none should attempt to wield it, but such as possess the power to a considerable degree.

The learned and witty author of Salmagundi, who possesses the imagination, humour and language of Addison, has not mistaken his talent. With a disposition to impart his knowledge... to dissipate illiberal prejudices...to correct the indiscretions of fashion, and introduce a true and sterling elegance into our societies...he neglects no means which genius can suggest, to produce these happy effects. His style possesses all the elegant simplicity of Goldsmith...and his satire, all the pungency of Swift. The impudence and illiberality of *post-road* travelling, the presumption and insufferable vanity of ignorant foreigners, the ridiculous "whimwhams" and *idiosyncracies* of crusty batchelors, splenetic old maids or venerable matrons, and the inefficiency of a "wordy" government, to repel foreign aggression and insult, are all stated and ridiculed, in a style which reflects the greatest honour on its learned authour, and will, no doubt, be productive of the most desirable consequenees.

Another paper (prior in time, and rather of a different nature,) is the Port-Folio, a most valuable repository of science and polite and elegant literature. The learned editor of this work, deserves the united plaudits of the lovers of taste and learning, for his indefatigable attention in rendering his papers highly instructive and amusing.

No person has been more successful in the happy combination of the useful and instructive, than this learned gentleman..... Whilst the mind is informed, the heart is interested and improved...of him we may say

"Omne tulet punctum qui miśevit utile dulci."

From the establishment of the Port-Folio, we may fix the era of American taste, literature and refinement. Latent genius has been *elicited* and fostered...the most laudable emulation has been inspired, and taste, a relish for the fine arts, or the *literæ humaniores*, has crowned Mr. Denny's disinterested and honourable endeavours to the amelioration of American genius.

The *literati* of Boston have also distinguished themselves by various periodical papers, which do them the greatest honour, as they evince the most extensive erudition, the most liberal notions, and the most ardent desire to improve society and rid it of these monstrous excrescences which *fashion* would justify.... "We should consider," says Antoninus, "what is most profitable to us. That is most useful which best agrees with our nature and constitution. My nature is to be a rational and sociable member of some city or community, and my city as I am *Antoninus*, is *Rome*...as I am a *man*, is the *world*. These things which are profitable to these communities, are the things which interest me, first my country, then the world."

However great my pleasure may be in observing the vast improvement which the cities of Boston, New-York and Philadel-

phia have received, from those excellent works, the Repertory, Emerald, Salmagundi and the Port-Folio, I cannot but acknowledge as a Baltimorean, that their interest claims my first attention. Could I see a spirit of laudable emulation, a love of valuable reading, and a strict attention to the rules of polite and elegant society, generally diffused among us, nothing could yield me more real satisfaction.

Baltimore is now rising with proud and rapid strides, to be but the second city, in commercial importance, in the union... Her citizens are growing extremely wealthy...the elegancies and luxuries of life are fast introducing, and consequently intellectual improvement is "*devoutly to be wished.*"

A large portion of the young gentlemen of this city, are designed for the bar, or the study of medicine. If the improvement of *others*, does not offer them a sufficient inducement to write, the great advantage it would be to themselves, should have its influence. This is to be sure, a selfish motive, and I hope will shortly become but a secondary one. Whilst some young men justify their neglect of my Lord Coke's Institutes, and Bacon's Abridgment, by maintaining that the study of law cramps the genius, destroys the *taste*, and vitiates the style, others too fond of the musty folio,

——————"Tread on flowers of taste,
"Yet stoop to pick the pebbles from the waste,
"Profound in trifles, they can tell how short
"Were Esop's legs, how large was Tully's wart."

Such beings will spend whole nights in reading Booth on real actions, whilst Espinasse or Nisi Prius, lies neglected on the shelf ...Pliny's Natural History, or Derham's Physicatheology, are committed to memory, when Buffon and Animated Nature, are looked on with contempt. The old-fashioned philosophy of *Des Cartes* is preferred to the present system, and individual vaga, inate ideas, syllogisms, and personal identity, so effectually engross their time, that every branch of polite and elegant literature is thought only fit to smooth the current of our latter days.

I would recommend as a model to these deluded persons, the great sir William Jones, whose gigantic mind grasped the vast system of general jurisprudence, and united with it the grand circle of science, polite literature and elegant accomplishment. The observation of sir William, that the "law is a jealous science and admits of no association with the *muses*," has been advanced by some as a justification of their total neglect of *Belle Lettre* reading. Any one who is acquainted with the character of this great man, will readily pronounce that he never intended we should neglect this branch of information, whilst in the pursuit of legal knowledge. The observation only goes to say, hat the fascinations of the *literæ humaniores*, but more especially of poetry, are so great, as often to create a disrelish for the

dryer and more abstruse pages of the law, if *they* be made our primary study. But polite literature, when used merely to fill up the little vacancies of time can be of no possible injury. It cheers us in our more difficult pursuits, and affords the most delightful recreation.

"Neque semper arcum tendit Apollo."
Apollo's bow is not forever bent.

Occasional recreations from the toils of severe study are recommended by reason, and common sense....and polite literature, translating and composing, are frequently more useful relaxations, than a total abstraction from study. The mind, like a *menstruum* may be saturated with one species of knowledge, and receive another with great avidity. Sir William, when he applied himself to the study of the law, made that his principal employment, but yet, he was far from neglecting occasionally to taste the pleasures of polite reading. Such excuses, therefore, as are generally given by young men, for not more frequently composing, are futile and totally unfounded, "They become, as Shenstone says, "no one beside a cobler, with ten or a dozen children depending upon a *patching* end."

EUGENIO.

MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS...CONTINUED,

1st. *Seventy Fours.*

With regard to the first method of defence, I would ask you what would be the efficacy of ten or even fifteen seventy-fours? For I do not see how it would be possible for you to have a greater number constructed at once. Would they be sent on cruizes with frigates, from New Spain to the point of Florida, or the mouth of the Mississippi; or would they sail together in a body?

It is evident that in the firrt case, that is to say, if they sail separately, they would be taken one after another, by a single European fleet, or else be compelled to remain blockaded in your ports.

In the second case, they would be too few, to resist fleets double, or triple their force...such, in a word, as the Europeans can so easily dispatch towards this continent...and, when destroyed, perhaps in a single combat, they would leave your harbours open, and terrour would precede the enemy even into the interiour of your country.

If you have to contend with England, I do not see where you are to find fleets and vessels of the first order to oppose to those with which she could *to-morrow* cover the seas, to block you up at home, or to repair in a moment any losses she might have encountered.

If Great-Britain does not ravage the territory of France by perpetual incursions...if she is obliged to wait for the French upon the ocean, it is because the coasts of France are thick set with cannon, and covered with forts of every kind ; it is because the coasts of France, have not half the extent of those of the United States, and because they are defended by thirty millions of inhabitants, and 600,000 soldiers of the line, at present in camp.

Should you on the other hand, have a war with France, it must be supposed she would *not lose her time* in prosecuting a naval war, from which she could not obtain any results, which would be either rapid, brilliant, or lucrative. (1) France will always chuse land expeditions, and the supernatural imprudence of those against whom she has so long directed them, can but augment her inclination for undertakings in which she has been so successful. The expedition against Egypt...the passage of St. Bernard...the invasion of Hanover...the last German campaigns, were *executed*, whilst the enemies of France were coldly and categorically descanting upon the *impossibility of such enterprises*... and whilst they treated as extravagant and visionary every information that was given them of the operations which were about to overwhelm them.

Therefore, to return to my subject, I believe that in any hypothesis, all the exertions you could make to create a *small navy*, would only be an expence, which would produce no good effects proportioned to the immensity it would cost you.

2d. Gun-boats.

On the second mode of defence, this is what naturally presents itself for reflection :

If your ships of the line are taken or destroyed, or reduced to inaction ; what resistance can be made, by either gun-boats or floating batteries?

Would the enemy land under their fire, when they would have a thousand neighbouring points, where they might do it with impunity, and with the arrogance and temerity, which either their superiority in arms, or the habit of warlike expeditions inspires?

The gun-boats then would not be more adviseable than ships of the line; but united to corvettes, and frigates, gun-boats appear to me to answer in part the purpose of a defensive system, the object of which would be to protect the coasting trade and the harbours; I suppose, of course, that

(1) This memorial having been written according to the spirit of the president's message for the convocation of the ninth congress —and the object of this message being only the protection necessary to be given to the American flag against the enterprises of the belligerent powers in general, it was proper to treat ths subject in its relations with the various European powers without distinction, or referring to one more than another.

these gun-boats would not have to contend with ships of the line, and that they would be supported by *respectable batteries on land.* I will add that in case of war, as it appears to me very difficult that you should on a sudden raise fleets enough, frigates and corvettes would still suit you best ; because the loss of them would neitheir affect public opinion, nor the national finances, as would that of ships of the line.

3d. Fortifications.

As to what regards fortifications, they can be but of two kinds : *regular fortification* and *field fortification.*

The first is employed to cover important towns, in order to reserve *places of arms* where magazines may be in safety, and which may serve as a refuge, either to troops, beaten or too feeble ; or to inhabitants exposed to invasion, proper in short to arrest the progress of the enemy, by obliging him to lose time and men, by the fatiguing and painful labour of a siege.

The second, which is field fortification, serves only to preserve a post ; to protect detached troops, and to render the parties of the enemy less enterprising.

The first of these fortifications, requires an immensity of *money, hands* and *time.*

The second *alone,* is insufficient ; because it protects only one point, and furnishes no fortress or place of refuge.

Here *time, hands* and *money* being equally deficient, regular fortification could be undertaken but on a very narrow scale, and only on very few points ; such, for instance, as the bay of New-York, the entrance of the Mississippi ; New Orleans ; the confluence of the Potowmac and the Chesapeake, and some other positions easily supposed ; which altogether would very insufficiently answer a system of defence.

In this country, every thing of this nature has to be done at once ; which would a hundred fold encrease the expences, the labour and the difficulties.

Here a town containing thirty or forty thousand souls occupies the same space as a capital with a half a million of men, in all parts of the ancient continent ; and the habitations are scattered here and there, for the temporary accommodation of individuals, without any regard to the military disadvantages of the position. It is too impossible to obviate suddenly so many inconveniences, for me to think of giving you the senseless advise of incurring expenses so evidently useless, as would be those of general fortifications.

I imagine that this opinion, will not at least be suspected of being interested on the part of an *Engineer,* or be supposed to be influenced in any way by professional prejudices. (Esprit de corps.)

Adhere then to your *militia, volunteer* companies ; for it is very evident after all that has preceded, that *land troops* can alone defend your territory.

(To be Continued.)

FOR THE OBSERVER.

BEATRICE IRONSIDE,

TO THE MODERN ZOILUS'S.

"Zoilus was a rhetorician of *Thrace,* who lived in the time of Ptolemy Philadelphus, about 260 years before Jesus Christ.... He rendered himself famous by his severe criticisms on the works of Socrates and Plato, and the poems of Homer, for which he received the name of *Homeromattic,* or the chastiser of Homer. He rendered himself so detestable by his malice and his calumnies that according to some he was stoned to death, and to others burned alive. The memory of this venomous critic is held in execration amongst all learned men and persons of taste; and if the name of *Aristarchus* is applied in literature to the sensible and caustic, tho' decent and delicate critic: the name of *Zoilus* has been applied in contradistinction to all *injurious* and *contemptible* criticks."...*Historical Dictionary.*

Zoilus is not compleatly dead, like another Elisha, in quitting the earth, he left his double spirit to his disciples, who have retained all his rancour and his malignity undiminished; and now with foreheads prostrate in the dust, they mutter as if from themselves, the oracles with which he inspires them in his secret and sublime communications. For some time, Baltimore has experienced the powerful effects of his influence, and the fanatacism of his posterity. And a COALITION really *terrible,* has burst forth against Mistress Beatrice. The parts have been distributed, the attacks combined, to harrass her as if from every side; whilst the genius of Zoilus, like another Proteus, has not neglected assuming every form to conceal himself from the public eye.

This mischievous genius expected to derive a double advantage from this stratagem: that of *multiplying in appearance* the clamours against The Observer, and by concealing himself, of escaping the contempt which so base a persecution, and such ridiculous attacks could not fail to excite in all judicious and well disposed minds.

But this manœuvre has failed, and notwithstanding his various metamorphoses, I recognize in the fury of his onset, in the coarseness of his language, in the affectation and folly of his images; in short, in the deformity of his various shapes, the pitiful buffoon, who had already declared, that he would annihilate The Observer with the fillip of his finger.

Certainly! he may try to poison it with the assassin dart of his tongue, as a hideous reptile in gliding under the grass, may carry death into the veins of the lion; but he cannot destroy it in an open and ingenuous contest, nor can he accomplish it by his own strength. It is curious, however, to follow our antagonists through some of their paroxysms; because this furnishes an interesting lesson on the perversity of the human heart, and the delirium which wounded self-love may occasion. He has thought proper to issue one attack, through the means of an obliging per-

sonage, who has had the kindness to give the public a pair of Spectacles, in order that they should see things in the light in which he views them, or rather conformably to the wishes of Zoilus, his master and *prompter*, whose whisperings from behind the scenes, it is not difficult to distinguish.

I was, as yet acquainted with these obscure *Spectacles*, only by the noise which one of their ostensible editors had made in the street, in running from door to door to force the public to become his subscribers, much as a famished wretch demands *our purse or life* on the high road, when I was indebted to a neighbouring grocer for the supreme advantage of meeting with a specimen of this delicate and elegant production: it met my eye amongst some curling paper, after having travelled from the grocer's store to the kitchen, already *beginning* to accomplish its very *humiliating* and inevitable destiny.....After having glanced over the curious series of abject, vulgar and insolent abuse that this miserable paper contained, (which they have the temerity to present as a *literary* work) I determined that its clamours proceeded from too low and mephitic a region, for it to be possible for me to honour it with a reply; and judging according to this maxim, "*that the style is the man,*" I had resolved to leave these miserable toads of Parnassus to swell and puff in their own puddle, without according the slightest attention to their noisy and disgusting croakings. But reflecting how often moderation is misinterpreted, how frequently the silence of contempt, is by certain persons mistaken for that of embarrassment or confusion, I have resolved upon defending myself once more, and the rather, as nothing can be easier than to expose to full view, the excess of ignorance and absurdity, and above all, the want of candour of those, who HONOUR The Observer with their persecution.

The folly and caballing spirit of the scribblers who have attacked me is such, that they have chosen no other pretext against The Observer, but one of those sallies, with which the Port Folio and Salmagundi, and every work consecrated to literature and the fine arts, in all polished nations abounds. The nomenclature alone of the periodical works which have had and still enjoy any celebrity in England, Germany, France and Italy, would suffice to confound these petty subaltern inquisitors, who would weigh their leaden sceptres over all the pens of Baltimore, that their ignorance might remain ever undisturbed.

But how have I forgotten myself in quoting *Salmagundi*, and the *Port Folio!* How could I forget the anathema which the Patriarch of these *Zoilus's* of our city, has pronounced against these two papers, whilst admiring before the glass, the graces of his cravat and his smile, he delivers his oracles seasoned with *Latin*, to a drawing room full of ladies...." *The Port Folio has no taste,* (says he;) *Salmagundi is trifling, although* (he adds in confidence) *I sometimes favour them, when my numerous occupations allow me time, with a few articles in my way!*

It may be judged then, if The Observer can possibly escape his indignation, when this paper has the misfortune of being edited by a WOMAN, and by a *woman* so impious as not to recognise his literary supremacy, and when those who contribute to The Observer have the audacity to write, without a *permit* from this pretended *viceroy* of Apollo!

And besides, too, he has sworn by his future immortality to *sink* The Observer. No, says Zoilus, jun. no one in Baltimore shall have either the talent or the privilege of criticism but according to the patent which I shall grant them, and upon the subject which I shall chuse: and then, making two or three of his miserable *hirelings*, with whom he has promised to share the spoils of The Observer, The Port Folio and Salmagundi, repeat the risible imprecation, Zoilus, jun. has believed, that all Olympus would re-echo it, and that The Observer was already pulverized by the destroying thunders of his genius! Whilst his noble satellites, opening a mouth wide and pestilential like that of the dragon of the abyss, have howled aloud, *crucify it! crucify it!*

What do these wretched sycophants say? Ah, they accuse The Observer of the crime of *envy*. But against whom has The Observer ever shewn *envy*? I DEFY them to point out a single word which it has ever directed against the merit of any one, or against any periodical paper of the United States; this is the first time, when, in self-defence it is compelled to attack any work *stiled* literary.

When The Observer had occasion to speak of the fine arts, it said what no one amongst us in possession of their senses could contest; but did it not do justice to the merits of the celebrated *West* and *Trumbull* and *La Trobe*. Did it not speak in terms of Messrs. Guy and Groombridge which would have flattered men of great reputation in Europe. Zoilus has then demonstrated only his own rage, when he has said it was to avenge Mr. Guy, he had taken up the pen; for certainly Mr. Guy had no reason to be offended with the honorable mention made of him in The Observer. Was it less just towards strangers of talent; where can then the smallest vestige of envy or malevolence be found?

When The Observer treated of music, did Mistress Beatrice fail, on any occasion, in doing justice to the merit of those of whom she spoke, and in the criticisms of one of the virtuosos to whom, however, she was very far from refusing praise, she certainly participated in the opinion of part of the public, and of all those who *know how* to judge. With regard to the remarks made on certain instruments used at Mr. Neninger's concert, she partook of the opinion of the performers themselves: and if any thing could be wanting to prove the effrontery of the enemies of The Observer, it was the flat contradiction which Mr. Carr gave in the Federal Gazette of the 7th of July, to one of its fierce antagonists.

But the great Zoilus did not yet lose his courage; he directed against the Observer a thundering philippic ingeniously stiled WARM! This *warm* champion, eloquently accuses Mistress Beatrice in his turn, of *having reduced the great pyramid of ancient literature to a pigmy.* This is antithesis indeed—*A pyramid reduced to a pigmy*, is a flight beyond me—but it is true, I am but a woman, and I may be excused for not comprehending how a *pyramid* is to be reduced to a *pigmy!* Neither do I understand, how I am to silence a *generation yet unborn*—Amidst it all I am so confounded, I can no longer follow the flight of these modern Icarus's, and I abandon them to their fate. I have given a specimen of the *form* of the libels of these worthy successors of Zoilus; as for their foundation, it is not more happy than their productions are *decent* and just. So far from The Observer having had the *barbarism* of detracting from ancient literature, it is *precisely the reverse*, which has drawn on it the persecution of this cabal: The Observer has *never*, nor will it *ever cease* to repeat, "*that nothing can be good either in literature or the fine arts, in which the principles of taste which, antiquity and the great modern masters present, are neglected; and that they ought eternally to remain as rules and models for the repression of every arbitrary innovation of the ignorant.*"

But after the silly brutality of these detractors, where their unparalleled WANT OF HONESTY is most evident, is that after they had made a *crime against the state* of The Observer's speaking with warmth of the *known* state of the fine arts amongst us; they themselves so jealous of natural glory, have not *hesitated at turning our* MILITIA *into ridicule* in one of their late numbers; when the zeal of these volunteers is so praise worthy; when it is so necessary to offer them every species of encouragement; when it is so just to testify our gratitude to them; but the fury of being witty at the expence of good sense, has already caught Zoilus in his own toils, and he has sufficiently proved to every *true American*, that the motive of the clamours of the Spectacles, and of the whole set, was no other than a calculation of envy and *interest* to injure The Observer, since this very *patriotic set* have been the first to insult the American nation, on a subject, which at the present conjuncture, is by no means a proper object of jest.

It is not without the *extremest repugnance* I have descended to reply TO SUCH adversaries, but it appeared to me indispensable to make manifest to the public and my friends, once for all, what was the disposition, and the soul of the cabal which has burst forth against The Observer; I thought it proper to make known to these wretched enemies, that WOMAN, as she is, Mistress Beatrice does not fear their logic, and that their rhetoric highly amuses her.

But I hasten to leave without further delay, a controversy in which no one who respects themselves, can descend to the level of such antagonists; only regretting the necessity under which I have deemed myself, of condescending to bestow on them so much attention and notice.

For the Observer.

HISTORICAL EPHEMERIS.

(Inserted by mistake in the last Observer.)

July 25, 1471, died at the age of 91 years, *Thomas A. Kempis* a learned canon, generally considered the author of a curious work, which has been translated into all languages, under the title of *Imitation of Jesus Christ*, but which some learned persons have attributed to Jean de Gersen.

J. ROBINSON, PRINTER.